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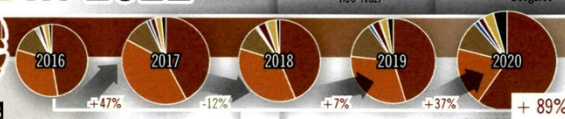
ITAC CIET

IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENT EXTREMISM
IMVE LANDSCAPE IN 2022
IN CANADA

CATEGORIES s.38

XENOPHOBIC	ANTI-GOVERNMENT/AUTHORITY	GENDER/ SEXUAL ORIENTATION	OTHER/ SINGLE ISSUE
racially motivated and ethno-nationalists - *neo-Nazi*	extreme opposition or antipathy to government or authority - *Boogaloo*	hatred of different genders or sexual orientations - *Incel*	- *environment, abortion*



The IMVE landscape in Canada is **disparate, often leaderless and multifaceted.** s.3

Extremists adhere to a mix of individualized, overlapping ideologies, anchored by personal grievances. s.38

Extremists are **heavily influenced** by social and political events, disinformation campaigns, and conspiracy theories. s.38

IMVE ideologues are adept **at using social and political events to recruit and inspire** like-minded individuals and at learning from the mistakes and failures of other violent extremists. s.38

The IMVE landscape predominantly comprises of individuals and small groups **interconnected through online forums, gaming platforms and social media.** s.

In addition to the threat posed by violent acts of terrorism, IMVE also challenges societal resilience in Canada resulting from the creeping legitimization of violence as a reasonable solution to political or ideological disagreement. s.38

Increase or decrease in **HATE CRIMES*** **ACROSS CANADA** reported to police from **2016 to 2020**

* While hate crimes do not necessarily constitute IMVE, they are an important indicator.

TYPE OF **MOTIVATION**

	CHANGE since 2016
RACE OR ETHNICITY	+139 %
RELIGION	+12 %
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	+47 %
LANGUAGE	+192 %
DISABILITY	-18 %
SEX/GENDER	+92 %
AGE	-20 %
OTHER SIMILAR FACTOR 8	+163 %
UNKNOWN MOTIVATION	+489 %
	+ 89%

Source: StatsCan

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MOST LIKELY SCENARIOS FOR IMVE TERRORISM IN CANADA

- Lone actor, young male (early 20s) using a firearm, knife or vehicle s.38
- Mobilizes quickly after a personal trigger/event; often undetectable s.38
- Personal mix of extremist beliefs s.38
  - likely influenced by anti-government/anti-authority or gender-/sexual orientation driven ideology
  - no group affiliation.
  - possibly inspired by conspiracy theories around COVID-19 and/or QAnon
- Personal grievances with government, possibly inspired by conspiracy theories around COVID-19 and/or QAnon s.38
- Communications security s.38 s.38
- Target likely to be random and opportunistic s.38

DRIVERS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

- IMVE adherents will **opportunistically capitalize on and co-opt complex and emotional social issues** to funnel vulnerable people from grievance to conspiracies and extremism s.3
- Pandemic measures will continue to inspire IMVE adherents, particularly as pressure increases for people, including children, to be **vaccinated** s.

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- **Climate change is an emerging driver** that has the potential to impact IMVE in 2022 and the longer term, due to economic (e.g., job-losses), social (e.g., refugee flows) and physical effects (e.g., increasingly common natural disasters) s.38

ONGOING GAPS AND CHALLENGES

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TRENDS

- **Anti-government beliefs continue to be predominant in IMVE**, increasing violent threats to government and public officials or representatives and symbols of government s.
- Common ideologies and flashpoints will continue to inspire extremism across Western countries via the internet, but will manifest locally, with increasing levels of hate crimes, protests, extremist activities and occasional violence s.

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- We expect a continued **departure from defined IMVE groups with formalized identities** towards increasingly loose movements networked online s.
- An IMVE attack is more likely to occur in Canada in the next 12 months than a religiously motivated attack s.38

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Canada

1 PROBABILITY YARDSTICK

2 THREAT LEVEL

established | raised | lowered | remains

LEVELS	DESCRIPTIONS	LANGUAGE
CRITICAL	*Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has the **intent AND capability** to commit an act of terrorism.*	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is **HIGHLY LIKELY** and **COULD OCCUR IMMINENTLY**.
HIGH		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is **LIKELY**.
MEDIUM		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism **COULD OCCUR**.
LOW	*Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has either the **intent OR capability**. to commit an act of terrorism.*	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is **POSSIBLE BUT UNLIKELY**.
VERY LOW	*There is no intelligence indicating a terrorist threat.*	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is **HIGHLY UNLIKELY**.

3 CONFIDENCE LEVEL

CRITERIA	INTELLIGENCE	SOURCES	ASSUMPTION	REASONING
HIGH	multiple reports; well-corroborated information; range of reporting types; historical understanding of the issue; good understanding of the risk of deceptive reporting	proven and accurate	few; minimal intelligence gaps	strong logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
MEDIUM	multiple reports; partially corroborated plausible information; some historical understanding of the issue, some risk of undetected deceptive reporting	proven and semi-proven sources that have been fairly accurate	several, not critical to the analysis; some intelligence gaps	includes weak logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
LOW	few or single-source reports; uncorroborated information; some historical understanding of the issue; considerable risk of undetected deceptive reporting	semi-proven sources that have been somewhat accurate, or new, unproven sources	many; some critical to the analysis	dominated by weak inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodologies

4 TERRORIST GROUP CAPABILITIES

ADVANCED	Capable of sophisticated attacks, including against hard targets
MODERATE	Capable of high profile attacks against soft targets
GENERAL	Capable of simple attacks

1 **ITAC's Probability Yardstick** tool contributes to the understanding of the threat by providing readers with a common understanding of ITAC's probability statements.

2 **ITAC's Threat Level** chart defines each threat level and describes the assessed likelihood of a violent act of terrorism. ITAC uses both quantitative and qualitative analysis in applying terrorism threat levels. Threat levels are determined based on several factors, including current intelligence, recent events, and the assessed intent, capabilities and opportunity available to terrorist groups. ITAC cautions that its information may be incomplete and, regardless of the threat level applied, a violent act of terrorism may occur with little or no warning. See Confidence Levels.

3 **ITAC's Confidence Levels** chart outlines statements that accompany each ITAC product to inform the reader of ITAC's degree of confidence in its assessments. These levels are based on an evaluation of the available intelligence, the sources, and ITAC's assumptions and reasoning.

4 **ITAC's Terrorist Group Capabilities** chart describes the capabilities of a terrorist group to conduct an attack in a particular country where the group has already demonstrated intent. This metric is based on the methodology used to establish ITAC's terrorism threat levels. For the purposes of this metric, capability is defined as "the ability, capacity, competence or qualification" of a group to perpetrate a particular attack.

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Any feedback should be directed via CTSN email to s.38

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